

I commend him for his work and wish him a happy retirement.

H.R. 1343, THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2001

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Muslims, Sikhs or persons of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent. As you know, since September 11, there have been numerous reports of violent assaults, harassment, and threats against men, women and children targeted solely because of their religious beliefs, ethnicity or nationality. An urgent, vigorous response is required to stop these shameful crimes.

State governments and local police need the tools to fight and prosecute these crimes. H.R. 1343, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2001 gives the State and local authorities the tools and federal assistance they need. We must elevate the status of hate crimes within federal law to ensure that the punishment fits the seriousness of the crime committed.

Significant gaps still exist in protecting all Americans from hate-motivated crimes. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) would strengthen existing hate crime law in two primary ways: first, it would extend the protection of hate crimes law to those who are victimized because of their gender, sexual orientation or disability; second, it would remove unnecessary judicial impediments to prosecuting hate-based violence.

Monitoring groups, such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations, have received several hundred complaints alleging retaliatory attacks against Muslims, Arab Americans, South Asians and others. A shooting rampage in Mesa, Arizona, left one Sikh man dead, with additional shots fired at a Lebanese clerk and the home of an Afghan family. An Egyptian-American grocer was shot and killed near his store in San Gabriel, California, and a storeowner from Pakistan was shot dead in Dallas, Texas.

Beatings and other violent assaults were reported across the country, as were death and bomb threats. At several U.S. universities, foreign students from the Middle East and South Asia have been targeted for attacks, and some have chosen to leave the country because they feared additional attacks. Mosques and Sikh temples have been shot at, vandalized, and defaced. A man in Parma, Ohio drove his car into a Mosque. Throughout the country affected, community members have been afraid to leave their homes, go to work or wear traditional clothing for fear of possible hate crimes against them.

The horrific terrorist attacks of September 11 have forced the people of the US to confront a number of terribly difficult decisions: Should the US respond to the assaults with its own attack, or should we refuse to fight violence with violence? How should the nation balance its desire for freedom with its need for security? And how can we best maintain our commitment to diversity and tolerance and not let scapegoating tear the nation apart?

I rise today to reiterate my support for the H.R. 1343, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2001. I urge people around the United States to reaffirm their commitment to peace, justice, and tolerance during this traumatic time. Retaliation will offer no consolation. The architects of the September 11 attacks must be apprehended and brought to justice in full compliance. And persons who commit hate crimes must be apprehended and brought to justice as well.

COMMENDING THE ALAMEDA FOOD BANK'S STUDY ON THE STATE OF HUNGER IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Alameda County Food Bank for their comprehensive study, *Hunger: The Faces and Facts 2001*, which examines the causes and the extent of hunger in Alameda County, California.

This study shows that each month thousands of low-income families cannot afford well-balanced meals in Alameda County. Although many families never imagined they would need assistance, their barren cupboards and empty pockets have led them to their local soup kitchens and food pantries. According to the study, 45 percent of the respondents reported that they had to choose between paying for food or paying for rent in the past 12 months.

The study reports that the demand for emergency food has increased steadily over the past decade, even during the most recent economic boom. As the government safety net programs are weakened and as our economy continues to struggle, the numbers will rise even higher.

The report shows that the food stamp program is not doing an effective job of informing low-income families that they are eligible for food stamps. Only 21 percent of households that get help from food banks receive food stamps, while an estimated 80 percent have incomes that would qualify them for the food stamp program. This represents a sharp decrease from the 37 percent of respondents who received food stamps according to the Alameda County Food Bank's 1997 study.

Congress' decision to reduce the benefit in 1996 has adversely affected poor people. Ninety percent of households receiving food stamps stated that their benefits did not last the entire month, reporting that on average, benefits last 2.2 weeks.

This study demonstrates that Congress needs to greatly improve the food stamp program to address the mounting hunger problem in Alameda County and the United States. As Congress makes decisions on reforming the food stamp program in the Farm Security Act of 2001, it needs to increase the food stamp benefit amount and improve the program's outreach to ensure that poor families know they are eligible for the program.

I commend the Alameda County Food Bank for its work on relieving hunger among poor families. I also congratulate them on publishing this very important report to explain the

causes and the extent of hunger in Alameda County. Now, I call on Congress to take note of the evidence presented in this report and to reauthorize and improve the food stamp program so that it relieves hunger in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO BURT HUNT

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Burt Hunt, a treasured Principal of Alvarado Intermediate School in my community of Rowland Heights, California. With great respect, he is retiring from the Rowland Unified District after thirty-six grateful years in education. Mr. Burt Hunt exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. His life has been dedicated to serving others and helping students achieve a higher standard in their academic education.

Mr. Burt's major contributions to the community have touched the lives of many. Burt began his career as a teacher at Hurly Elementary School, which was a poverty-stricken area. He then moved on to become the principal of Blandford Elementary School in 1974 and then moved back to Hurly Elementary School as the principal. Here, with his leadership, Hurly Elementary proudly became a California Distinguished School. In 1988, Burt became the principal of Alvarado Intermediate School, where he began a program of reform that stressed the academic, social, and emotional need of his students. The program showed students improving academically and those with remedial needs began to have success.

In 1994, Alvarado Intermediate School proudly became the first secondary school in the District to gain recognition as a California Distinguished School. With the leadership of Burt, Alvarado Intermediate School was again recognized by becoming the District's first National Blue Ribbon School.

It is with great honor that I commend Burt Hunt for his commitment to helping the children of his community become educated. His presence as a leader as a principal will be sorely missed. However, his tradition and leadership will be remembered and continued by those who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert W. Williams Jr. of South Carolina, who is a recipient of the National Distinguished Presidential Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). His service to South Carolina includes countless hours attracting new industry and better jobs to the Pee Dee area of South Carolina. His commitment to rural initiatives has afforded a better quality of life to innumerable South Carolinians.